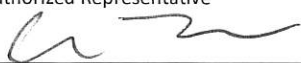


BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

For Fiscal Year 2022

Primary Applicant (Name and Address): Northern Telephone & Data Corp. 300 N Koeller St Oshkosh, WI 54902	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx . Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions. Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.
	Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov
	Date: December 1, 2021
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>	
<p>Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>	
Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print) William K Miller	Title President
Phone (920) 426-9192	
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date 3-15-2022

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name William K Miller	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) \$421,393
Federal Employer Identification No. 39-1771477	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) \$782,587
Contact Name and Title William K Miller; President	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) \$1,203,980
Telephone Number (920) 426-9192	Project Name Winnebago County FiberNet
E-mail Address(es) wmiller@ntdcorp.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) FTTH
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) All
Grant Manager Contact Name	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) Overbuild existing Fixed Wireless network and surrounding areas with 100% fiber to the home providing critical broadband access to several underserved communities. 100% of grant funds will be used strictly for fiber construction; Zero dollars for electronics.	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed 2 Gbps	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed 2 Gbps
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location 200 Mb	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location 200 Mb
County or Counties served by this project Winnebago County	Community or Communities served by this project Eureka, Fisk, Waukau

List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve AT&T, Charter, CenturyLink	
Does proposed project serve an <i>unserved</i> area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no) No	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) Yes
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). 12 (phase 1)	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). 367 (phase 1)
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? 0	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? 0
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) Yes	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) Yes
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) Yes	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) No
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) Yes	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Northern Telephone & Data Corp	Winnebago County FiberNet

Budget

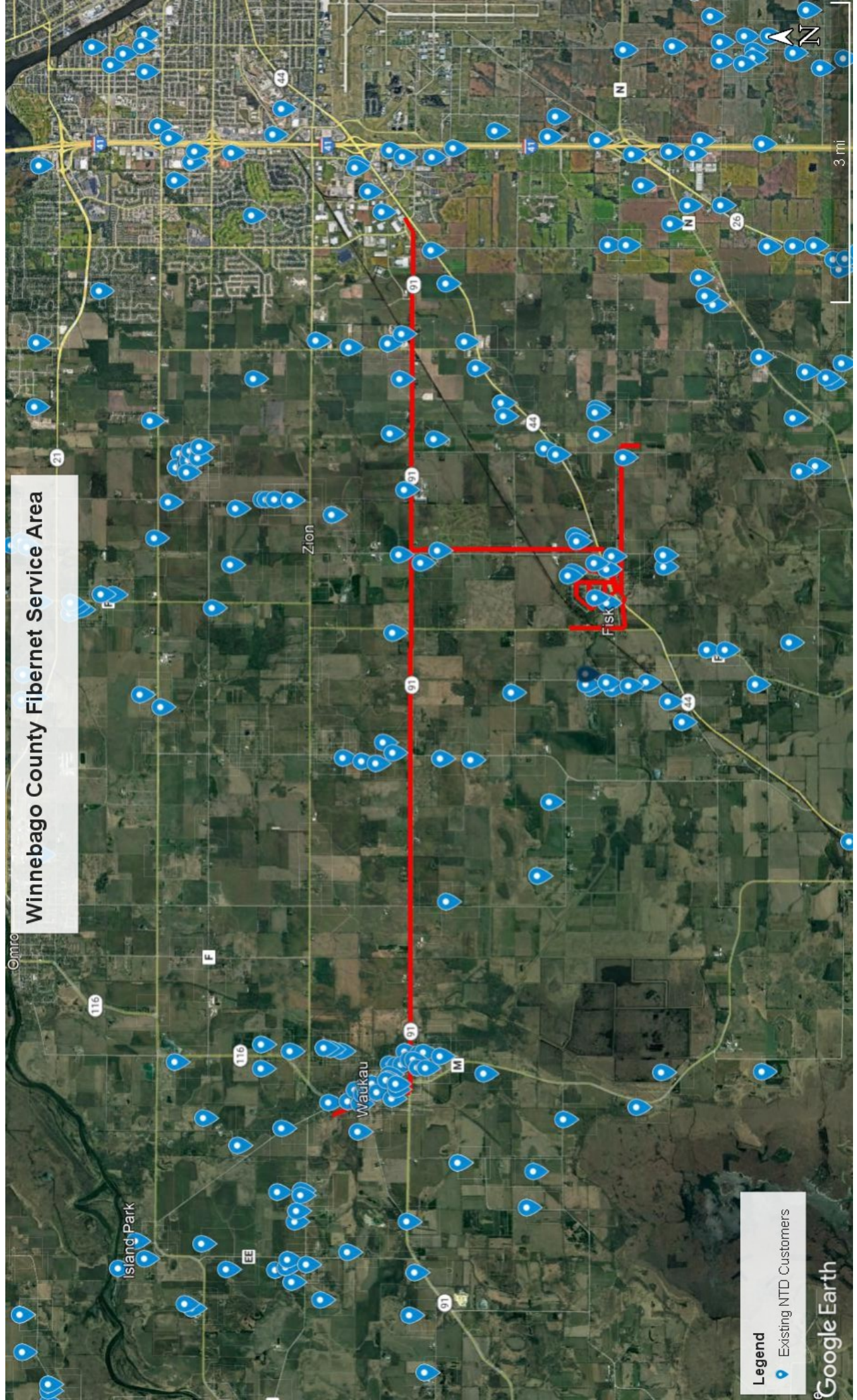
Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 360,644.56	\$ 669,768.94	\$ 1,030,413.50
2	Equipment	\$ 17,733.97	\$ 32,934.53	\$ 50,668.50
3	Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 42,139.31	\$ 78,258.72	\$ 120,398.03
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ 875.00	\$ 1,625.00	\$ 2,500.00
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ 421,392.84	\$ 782,587.19	\$ 1,203,980.03
65.0% match requested				

Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ -

Match total should be equal to pledge total. Please include all project contributions, including from the applicant.

Winnebago County Fibernet Service Area



Legend
Existing NTD Customers

Google Earth

1. Executive Summary

Northern Telephone & Data Corp (NTD) is requesting a grant to provide fiber connectivity to approximately 367 homes and 12 businesses in Winnebago County. NTD is requesting 35% of the funding for this project (\$421,393) with the remaining 65% funding (\$782,587) being matched by NTD.

This project will upgrade last mile facilities. The Covid-19 pandemic has illustrated the need for high-speed broadband in several of our rural areas including the footprint of this project. The need for remote learning and work from home models are rapidly changing. This project meets the needs in a post-Covid-19 world. NTD has over a 25 year history of providing affordable services to its residential and business customers. Our fiber internet prices start at \$39.95 with no data caps.

2. Statement of applicant's ability to undertake the project

For over 20 years NTD has been passionate about and committed to fiber expansion in our community. NTD has completed several large scale construction projects in Oshkosh including business parks, multi-tenant buildings, business to business connections and fiber to the home. Because we have our own Telecommunications Construction crew we continue to add fiber customers daily. Our fiber network has grown from downtown Oshkosh to far West and North of Hwy 41 and as far South as the Town of Nekimi.

The demand for this service offering has been very high and NTD will continue to expand the reaches of this fiber. We believe that our construction history adequately demonstrates that NTD is fully capable of completing, and has already completed large scale fiber construction projects.

In FY2020 NTD was awarded a grant for our EAA Grounds project which is currently under construction and targeted for completion in June 2022.

3. Statement of need for high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband

The demand for high speed internet in the proposed grant area is ever increasing due to schooling and working from home.

Fiber to the home and access to true Broadband speeds will help students better access their online materials from home. Many homework systems are moving to the cloud and cloud file storage is

also becoming more prevalent. Synchronizing videos, slideshows and other schoolwork files to and from the cloud requires faster speeds than what is being delivered with their current service. Faster internet service could also allow more options for online college courses, because a lot of the software and textbooks are delivered via digital downloads rather than physical media.

In addition to work and school the impact of accessing online health care services and resources is tremendous. Being able to access videos, diagrams and health care resources would be greatly improved with a true Broadband connection speed. It is difficult to quantify the amount of health care savings Broadband service would provide, but being able to access information on the internet faster is key.

The proposed project will not duplicate existing broadband in this area because it does not utilize copper lines for deployment. We have obtained bill copies from some of the area residents which indicate that speeds are "up to" 20Mb for download speed. This does not meet the minimum for broadband leaving these residents in an underserved status despite the current provider's claims of broadband offerings.

4. Project Proposal

a. Technology and Network Design

NTD is deploying FTTH utilizing 10 Gbps XGS-PON technology to all customers. Fiber will be buried directly to all subscribers. This project will conform to all applicable federal, state, and local requirements and standard engineering practice,

b. Affordability, digital literacy and internet access

NTD has a long history of offering affordable services to our customers in need. While the subscribers in the proposed grant area will have access to connection speeds in excess of a Gig we will also offer a wide variety of speed plans starting at just \$39.95 per month with a 12 month agreement.

Some things that set us apart from our competitors are that we offer non-bundled internet connections preventing consumers from being forced to subscribe to services they do not have a need for in order to receive the lowest available pricing. We also do not engage in the promotional pricing "bait and switch" game. Although rate increases are unavoidable from

time to time we do not automatically increase rates when a customer comes out of contract. This leads to higher customer retention and lower suspension/disconnection/collection actions which truly benefits those on low or fixed incomes.

5. Partnerships and community engagement

NTD has and will continue to work closely with local government agencies and well as community partners.

Both the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce and Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau have written letters in support of this Grant request. Both feel that NTD's expansion plans would benefit the entire Winnebago County community. We have also garnered the support of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and the Oshkosh Police Department.

6. Timeline

If this grant application is approved, NTD will utilize the following schedule:

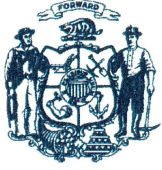
- 2022 Fourth Quarter – Minor Engineering Modifications.
- 2023 First Quarter - Begin construction starting at the intersection of Hwy 91 and Oakwood Rd at existing NTD facilities.
- 2023 Fourth Quarter - Deploy fiber drops, splicing and customer equipment to the premises.

7. Budget Discussion

Cost information for budgeting purposes has been provided by third party Engineers. Cost estimates for fiber installation change as do network designs. Adjustments are then made as necessary. Based upon current construction cost estimates the total for this project is \$1,203,980.28. This project will build approximately 17.8 miles of fiber. NTD will own and maintain all facilities and assets related to this project.

The funds requested in this grant application will be used only for the sole purpose of implementing the proposed construction and project. The funds will only be used as authorized by the grant rules.

NTD will not subsidize its ongoing expenses or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GORDON HINTZ

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

54th DISTRICT

Dennis Klaila
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 North Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Klaila,

I am writing this letter in support of the broadband expansion grant (Winnebago County Fibernet) that Northern Telephone & Data (NTD) is applying for through the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

We all recognize that the expansion of reliable high-speed internet access will enhance the standard of living and provide increased opportunities for individuals and businesses alike. I believe the proposed broadband investment supports these goals.

Many facets of day to day life depend on high speed internet from online classes for students ranging from elementary through college, safety both in the private sector and the public sector not to mention businesses relying on employees working from home more and more. The experience of the COVID pandemic have made the importance of reliable high speed internet in these areas even greater. The area referenced in NTD's grant request has historically been underserved by all providers and is exactly the type of area the grants were created to serve.

NTD has served Oshkosh and Winnebago County for over 25 years and it would be a great benefit to area business and residential consumers to finally have a true broadband option for internet service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Hintz".

Gordon Hintz – 54th Assembly District

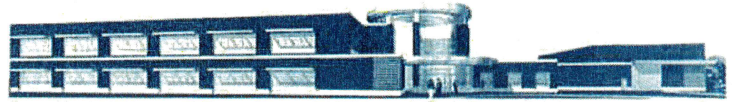
Sheriff
John F. Matz

Chief Deputy
Todd A. Christopherson



Winnebago County Sheriff

www.co.winnebago.wi.us



4311 JACKSON STREET
OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN 54901
(920) 236-7300 (920) 727-2888
JAIL (920) 236-7380
ADMINISTRATION FAX (920) 236-7333
RECORDS FAX (920) 236-7302

July 27, 2021

Dennis Klaila
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 N Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Klaila,

This is a letter in support of the broadband expansion grant (Winnebago County Fibernet) that Northern Telephone & Data (NTD) is applying for through the Public Service Commission of WI.

Expansion of reliable high-speed internet access will enhance the standard of living and provide increased opportunities for individuals and businesses alike.

Many facets of day to day life depend on high speed internet from online classes for students ranging from elementary through college, safety both in the private sector and the public sector not to mention businesses relying on employees working from home more and more. The area referenced in NTD's grant request have historically been underserved by all providers.

NTD has served Oshkosh and Winnebago County for over 25 years and it would be a great benefit to business and residential consumers to finally have a true broadband option for internet service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JF Matz".

John F. Matz
Winnebago County Sheriff



Winnebago County

Office of the County Executive

The Wave of the Future

OSHKOSH (920) 232-3450
FOX CITIES (920) 727-2880
FAX (920) 232-3429

July 27, 2021

Dennis Klaila
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 N Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Klaila,

This is a letter in support of the broadband expansion grant (Winnebago County Fibernet) that Northern Telephone & Data (NTD) is applying for through the Public Service Commission of WI.

Expansion of reliable high-speed internet access will enhance the standard of living and provide increased opportunities for individuals and businesses alike.

Many facets of day to day life depend on high speed internet from online classes for students ranging from elementary through college, safety both in the private sector and the public sector not to mention businesses relying on employees working from home more and more. The area referenced in NTD's grant request have historically been underserved by all providers.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Doemel', is written over a horizontal line.

Jon Doemel
Winnebago County Executive



**Fox River
Valley Ethanol_{LLC}**

Fox River Elevator_{LLC}

4995 State Road 91, Oshkosh, WI 54904
(P) 920-230-3835 (F) 920-230-3845
www.frvethanol.com

July 27, 2021

Dennis Klaila
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 N Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Klaila,

This is a letter in support of the broadband expansion grant (Winnebago County Fibernet) that Northern Telephone & Data (NTD) is applying for through the Public Service Commission of WI.

Expansion of reliable high-speed internet access will enhance the standard of living and provide increased opportunities for individuals and businesses alike.

Many facets of day-to-day life depend on high-speed internet from online classes for students ranging from elementary through college, safety both in the private sector and the public sector not to mention businesses relying on employees working from home more and more. The area referenced in NTD's grant request have historically been underserved by all providers.

NTD has served Oshkosh and Winnebago County for over 25 years, and it would be a great benefit to business and residential consumers to finally have a true broadband option for internet service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dena M Mantz
Commodities Manager



July 26, 2021

Dennis Klaila
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 N Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Klaila,

This is a letter in support of the broadband expansion grant (Winnebago County Fibernet) that Northern Telephone & Data (NTD) is applying for through the Public Service Commission of WI.

Expansion of reliable high-speed internet access will enhance the standard of living and provide increased opportunities for individuals and businesses alike.

Many facets of day to day life depend on high speed internet from online classes for students ranging from elementary through college, safety both in the private sector and the public sector not to mention businesses relying on employees working from home more and more. The area referenced in NTD's grant request have historically been underserved by all providers.

NTD has served Oshkosh and Winnebago County for over 25 years and it would be a great benefit to business and residential consumers to finally have a true broadband option for internet service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John A. Casper
President & CEO

A Five Star Accredited Chamber of Commerce



Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau

Dennis Klaila
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 N Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Klaila,

This is a letter in support of the broadband expansion grant (Winnebago County Fibernet) that Northern Telephone & Data (NTD) is applying for through the Public Service Commission of WI.

Expansion of reliable high-speed internet access will enhance the standard of living and provide increased opportunities for individuals and businesses alike. It will also enhance the visitor experience for tourists in our area.

Many facets of day to day life depend on high speed internet from online classes for students ranging from elementary through college, safety both in the private sector and the public sector not to mention businesses relying on employees working from home more and more. The area referenced in NTD's grant request has historically been underserved by all providers.

NTD has served Oshkosh and Winnebago County for over 25 years and it would be a great benefit to business and residential consumers to finally have a true broadband option for internet service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Albright
Executive Director
Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau
amy@visitoshkosh.com
(920) 303.9200

100 N. Main Street
Suite 112
Oshkosh, WI 54901
Phone 920-303-9200
Toll Free 877-303-9200
Fax 920-303-9294
visitoshkosh.com



City of Oshkosh
Police Department

420 Jackson Street
Oshkosh, WI 54901
Tel: 920-236-5720
Fax: 920-236-5087
dsmith@ci.oshkosh.wi.us
www.oshkoshpd.com

PROFESSIONALISM • PRIDE • INTEGRITY • TEAMWORK

Dean Smith
Chief of Police

Dennis Klaila
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 N Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Klaila,

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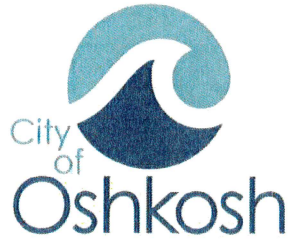
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NTD has served Oshkosh and Winnebago County for over 25 years and it would be a great benefit to business and residential consumers to finally have a true broadband option for internet service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean M. Smith
Chief of Police
Oshkosh Police Department



Dennis Klaila
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 N Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Klaila,

This is a letter in support of the broadband expansion grant (Winnebago County Fibernet) that Northern Telephone & Data (NTD) is applying for through the Public Service Commission of WI.

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NTD has served Oshkosh and Winnebago County for over 25 years and it would be a great benefit to business and residential consumers to finally have a true broadband option for internet service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Stanley, Fire Chief

City of Oshkosh Fire Department
Fire Chief Michael Stanley

101 Court Street Oshkosh, WI 54901 920.236.5240